

Your Septic System and How it Works

It is important to understand how your system works and how treatment affects it in order to protect your investment. The typical system consists of three (3) main components:

- . The Septic Tank
- . The Distribution Box
- . The Drainfield

The Septic Tank

Waste exits the house and enters the septic tank where solids settle to the bottom, grease and scum from the household detergents float to the top, and liquids stay in between. The solids that settle create their own bacteria which decompose the solids naturally. There is no need to add additional enzymes and bacteria to the tank. The tank eventually fills with solids and scum requiring it to be pumped.

The Drainfield

The liquid (gray water) flows to the distribution box where it is evenly dispersed into the drainfield. Finally, the drainfield begins treating the gray water. Microorganisms in the soil consume organic pollutants in the gray water and pure water is absorbed by the ground below.

How Problems Start

From the first day of use, the drainfield of your septic system begins to deteriorate. Some solids, grease, and scum always pass through the septic tank into the laterals. This is because of natural solubility or the lack of settling time in the septic tank during periods of heavy use. Problems especially arise when the septic system is not maintained and the septic tank fills with solids and scum that overflow into the drainfield. As the drainfield becomes clogged, the water flow becomes restricted. Since the water cannot drain into the soil, it filters upward causing ponding, foul odors, wet spots in the yard, and unhealthy environment.